

REMARKS

Claims 1-6 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. New claims 7-12 have been added. Accordingly, claims 7-12 are currently pending in the above-identified application.

Priority

Applicants appreciate the Examiner's acknowledgment of the claim for priority and safe receipt of the certified priority document.

Information Disclosure Statement

Applicants submit herewith the PTO-1449 Form inadvertently not included with the Information Disclosure Statement filed on October 17, 2003. Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner initial and return a copy of the attached PTO-1449 Form to indicate that the documents have been considered.

35 U.S.C. §102

The rejection of claims 1-3 under 35 U.S.C. §102(a) has been rendered moot by the cancellation of claims 1-3 without prejudice or disclaimer.